

China Acknowledges Blast, Denounces Nuclear Treaty

HONG KONG (UPI) — Communist China announced yesterday — a day after U.S. disclosure — that it had exploded a hydrogen bomb successfully for the second time in 18 months.

And it vowed it would never sign the United Nations treaty to end the spread of nuclear weapons.

The hydrogen blast, which occurred early Friday at Lop Nor in Sinkiang Province bordering on the Soviet Union, put the Chinese thermonuclear warfare program back on the track after an apparent failure in a test one year ago.

The timing of Friday's blast apparently was intended in part as a birthday salute to Communist party Chairman Mao Tse-tung, who was 75 Thursday. Peking Radio hailed it as a "victory" for Mao's thought.

The Peking Radio announcement skipped scientific details of the test in favor of militant commentary on its political significance in Vietnam and to the over-all nuclear arms race.

But Atomic Energy Commission officials in Washington said the test was believed conducted said:

"The new success in bomb testing by China once again has

struck at the policy of the American imperialists and the Soviet revisionists and their threat to the world.

"And it is a strong support for in the atmosphere and had a force of about 3 megatons, equivalent to 3 million tons of TNT.

Believed to be Atmospheric

Their announcement, based on U.S. monitoring facilities, came almost 24 hours before the Radio the courageous Vietnamese in fighting through to the end in their war against American oppression."

The Red Chinese took the occasion once again to denounce the U.N.-sponsored nuclear non-proliferation treaty as a Russo-American "trick" designed to maintain their supremacy.

The announcement said Red China would continue testing and producing hydrogen bombs "in order to break the monopoly" of other powers.

Adopted By Many

The treaty already has been adopted by many countries and is expected to come before the U.S. Senate for ratification early in 1968.

In its Chinese-language broadcast, Radio Peking referred to "a new nuclear device." But an English-language communique from the Hsinhua News Agency later referred to another hydrogen bomb test.

The English-language communique said: "China exploded another hydrogen bomb over her west region on Dec. 27, 1968, and thereby successfully conducted a new thermonuclear test," the Associated Press reported.

The communique said "U.S. imperialism and Soviet revisionism" had "dished up a so-called nuclear nonproliferation treaty and are plotting to make a new deal of limitation and reduction of strategic nuclear weapons systems in an effort to maintain their already broken nuclear monopoly."